Docket No.: 2354/141 (FF3452

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants Melrose et al.

Serial No. 10/053,088

Cnfrm. No. 6479

January 18, 2002 Filed

ANTIMICROBIAL POLYMERIC For

COMPOSITIONS AND METHOD OF

TREATMENT USING THEM

Ton Solos

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office P.O. Box 2327 Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at page 3, line 27 through page 4, line 2 with the following:

We have now found the activity and stability of poly(2-propenal, 2-propenoic acid) polymers are substantially increased if they are reacted with an alcohol or polyol to form protected carbonyl groups such as acetal and/or hemiacetal derivatives. Surprisingly we have found that the activity of the derivative is substantially increased notwithstanding that the free acrolein content may be extremely low or negligible in the polymer in water. The solubility of the polymer is also very high.

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, lines 25-26 with the following:

The invention further provides compositions of the antimicrobial for use as antiseptics, disinfectants and in treatment of gastrointestinal disease.

R654705.1

To Be Assigned Art Unit: 1614

Examiner:

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1614

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Docket No.: 2354/141 (FF#527/02)

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Applicants : Melrose et al.

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COMPOSITIONS AND METHOD OF

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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

P.O. Box 2327

Arlington, VA 22202

Sir:

[X]

Transmitted herewith in the above-identified application are:

[X] Preliminary Amendment (7 pages) with attached Appendix (6 pages);

[X] A self-addressed, prepaid postcard for acknowledging receipt.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-1138.

A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Date: January 17, 2003

Edwin V. Merkel

Registration No.40,087

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office P.O. BOX 2327 Arlington, VA 22202, on the date below.

Date 1 17 03 Jane C. Wirszyla